



PATENT
02581-P0423A WWW/MWK

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	Horst Dittrich, <i>et al.</i>
Serial No. 10/002,248	Filing Date: October 26, 2001
Title of Application:	Trocar Sleeve With A Variable Sealing Opening
Confirmation No. 3376	Art Unit: 3731
Examiner	Vy Q. Bui

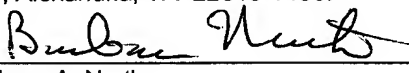
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Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment Accompanying RCE

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination along with the appropriate fee, and is in response to the outstanding Final Office Action mailed 21 December 2004. Applicant believes that no further fee is due in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if any further fee is due please charge Deposit Account No. 19-4516.

Mailing Certificate: I hereby certify that this correspondence is today being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as *First Class Mail* in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks; Post Office Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

3/21 2005



Barbara A. North